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Statement submitted by Ecoforum of Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

If no one should be left behind, mountain peoples, who are among the world's poorest, should be at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Poverty and hunger eradication, gender equality, decent work opportunities and economic growth, industry and infrastructure and sustainable communities must reach the most remote, marginalized communities — including at high elevations.

Because 39 percent of mountain dwellers in developing countries are vulnerable to food insecurity, the efforts toward Zero Hunger, good health and well-being and quality education must be aimed at mountain dwellers. Mountain areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change and disaster and should be a global priority given the multitude of services they provide.

Efforts should be made to reach all the Sustainable Development Goals in mountain regions, rather than just the three targets that specifically mention them in Goal 6 and Goal 15.